MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 JANUARY 1982

Egypt

Haig Visit -- Welcoming U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig at Cairo airport, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in a speech carried by MENA that Egypt will spare no effort in keeping the autonomy talks going until the desired results are achieved, "whether before or after the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai." 'Ali reiterated Egypt's belief that peace cannot be achieved without mutual recognition among all parties and respect for each other's rights to self-determination and to a life of peace within secure borders free from external threats. He expressed hope that Haig's visit will bolster the chances of achieving full and genuine autonomy for the Palestinians. According to Cairo radio, 'Ali also stated that Haig's visit will confirm U.S. adherence to the principle of the illegality of any "unilateral measures" that would affect the chances of a comprehensive solution.

MENA reported that in the first round of U.S.-Egyptian talks Haig expressed his personal readiness to play a direct role in giving momentum to the autonomy negotiations and Egypt noted the importance of achieving a framework acceptable to the Palestinians.

Prime Minister's Interview -- In an interview reported by the Israeli paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Egyptian Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that although the evacuation of Yamit and the surrounding settlements is an internal Israeli affair, the "commotion" in Israel involving the evacuation of northern Sinai has been "hitting at soft spots" among peace supporters in Egypt. On the autonomy talks, he said Egypt does not intend to reject proposals merely to pressure Israel after the completion of the Sinai withdrawal in April. The prime minister added that time might be working in favor of all parties since in the past few weeks the possibility of other Arab countries joining the peace process "could be discerned." He also assured Israelis that the peace between Israel and Egypt will continue after April and that Egyptian tourists will come to Israel although the Egyptian Government will not encourage them.

Teachers Reinstated, Detainees Released -- Cairo radio reported that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak issued a presidential decree reinstating 26 teachers in their former posts at universities and higher institutes. According to MENA, the public prosecutor issued a ruling releasing 27 persons from custody and shelving their cases. The prosecutor mentioned advanced age, health and other humanitarian factors as among the reasons for the decision.

PLO

During an 11 January speech in Beirut broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat revealed that there are Palestinian pilots in Nicaragua and that Palestinian revolutionaries are alongside the revolutionaries in El Salvador, Angola and "everywhere in the world" where there are revolutionaries.

Israel

According to MA'ARIV, a large terrorist network has recently been discovered in Nabulus, the members of which will be charged with 27 terrorist incidents dating back to 1975. The group's members, most of whom were trained in Damascus and Lebanon, included elderly, highly respected Nabulus figures, MA'ARIV stated.

Sudan

University Closure -- SUNA reported that classes at Al-Jazirah University in Wad Madani, Al-Jazirah Province, have been suspended until further notice. It gave no explanation for the suspension.

Relations With Chad -- SUNA transmitted the text of a press statement issued at the conclusion of talks between President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, in which Sudan stressed support for the Chadian Government and pledged not to aid forces working against it, particularly the Armed Forces of the North, led by Hissein Habre. The statement also announced that the two countries agreed to reopen their embassies in Ndjamena and Khartoum.

Syria

WAKH reported that in an interview with Qatar radio Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam denied that there is any Syrian-Kuwaiti mediation to achieve a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

Al-Asad Moscow Visit -- Citing "informed sources" in Damascus, Monte Carlo radio reported that President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Moscow after Foreign Minister Khaddam's journey there on 15 January.

Libya

JANA reported that an agreement to develop technical and technological oil cooperation between the national oil establishment and the Iranian oil company was signed in Tripoli.

Iran

Velayati on Foreign Policy -- Tehran radio reported that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati delivered a speech to foreign diplomats in which he officially announced that the Government of Iran respects the principle of noninterference in the affairs of other countries and never considers exporting revolution "in a sense which is contrary" to that principle. He went on to state that Iran will continue to struggle against the United States and Israel. In an interview reported by AFP, Velayati rejected any possibility of normalizing relations with the United States, which he accused of supporting Kurdish rebels, Marxists and other leftist opposition groups in Iran. He said Iran would like to improve relations with the Soviet Union, Persian Gulf states and West European nations. Velayati asserted that the Iranian charge d'affaires in the YAR, recently expelled for distributing anti-YAR pamphlets, had not broken any diplomatic rules but distributed a printed denial that Iran had executed Iraqi prisoners of war.

Denial of Loan Request -- IRNA noted that the Central Bank deputy governor denied reports from Tokyo that Iran had requested a loan from Japanese and West European banks. He also denied that the Japanese Government does not wish to continue its barter trade with Iran.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SOUTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN FEB

BK111604 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 11 Jan (AFP) -- China and Yugoslavia will be special invitees at the South-South delegates' conference to be held here from 22 to 25 February to discuss developmental problems, an official spokesman disclosed today.

Thirty-four countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America are expected to attend the meeting which is being organised at the initiative of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Yugoslavia will be the lone European nation at the conference which is planned as a follow-up to the Cancun summit of October last.

The conference will have two working sessions on February 22 and 23 followed by the two final sessions on February 24, according to the spokesman.

On February 25 the delegates will be taken on inspection tours of industrial estates near Delhi.

Mrs Gandhi, who will inaugurate the meeting, has written to various heads of government stressing the urgent need for deliberations among developing countries to expedite the holding of the global round.

She has said that preliminary discussions at the United Nations following the Cancun summit had not produced the desired results.

The Indian prime minister has also pointed out that the step was necessary in the light of the declared policy of governments that collective self-reliance was an important factor in encouraging the process of North-South cooperation.

GANDHI ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, NUCLEAR ISSUE

BK101219 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Replying to a question on the future of Indo-U.S. relations, the prime minister said India's relations are as good as the U.S. Government wants them to be. The prime minister said that India wants better economic cooperation, more trade and enlarged bilateral relationship with America.

About the Soviet Union, Mrs Gandhi said that USSR has supported not only India but what is known as the Group of 77, which has more than 100 members now. On many issues it is not India that voted with the USSR but it is vice versa.

The prime minister said that if the Afghanistan crisis is considered a reason for arming Pakistan and Pakistan intends to use these arms against India as they have done before, then the threat to India increases.

About India's relations with China, Mrs Gandhi said that the entire Asia can be much more stable and will be able to deal with problems like poverty and economic backwardness if we are not fighting or having ill-feelings and if there is greater cooperation.

Answering questions on nuclear energy, the prime minister reiterated that India has not made a bomb [as heard] and does not intend to do so. But India should have full opportunity to investigate all forms of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. India is against unequal treaties, she added.

MAHARASHTRA MINISTER QUITS AFTER COURT VERDICT

BK121625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] The Bombay High Court today held as justified the allegations against the Maharashtra chief minister, A.R. Antule, about allotting cement in consideration of donations to the two trusts he had started.

Delivering his judgment in a writ petition filed by Mrs Mrinal Gore, P.D. Samant and others, Mr Justice (Lentil) rejected the hypothesis of mistake by the Maharashtra government. The charge of arbitrariness against Chief Minister Antule was justified as the nexus between allocations of cement to certain builders and donations to the trusts was established, Mr Justice (Lentil) said.

The judge rejected the version of the chief minister as stated in his affidavit. The court held that the state government's circular of March 1, 1981, was valid and binding. The circular was very much in force and should have been acted upon while allocating ad-hoc quotas of cement unless there was specific allotment from the central government, Mr Justice (Lentil) said.

Addressing a news conference after the judgment was delivered, Mr Antule announced that he has requested Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi to forward his pending resignation to the governor. He said he has also requested to Mrs Gandhi to immediately send an All-India Congress-I committee observer to Maharashtra to get the new leader of the legislature party elected. The chief minister said till his resignation is accepted by the governor and a new leader is chosen, he will not take any major policy decision. The state Congress-I legislature party will meet in Bombay in Thursday to consider the situation arising out of the high court judgment. This was stated by the party whip, Bhavrao Patil.

Here is a flash: The Congress-I high command is understood to have acceeded to Mr Antule's request to allow him to step down.

Resignation Accepted

BK130419 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] The resignation of the Maharashtra chief minister, A.R. Antule, has been accepted by State Governor O.P. Mehra. Antule tendered his resignation yesterday following the Bombay High Court judgment upholding the charges against him about alloting cement in consideration of donations to the two trusts he had started.

As already reported, Antule told the news conference after the judgment that he had requested Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi to forward his pending resignation to the governor. Later the Congress-I high command is understood to have acceded to Antule's request to allow him to step down.

Governor O.P. Mehra has requested the chief minister to continue in office till an alternative arrangement is made.

CONGRESS-I OFFICIAL IN ASSAM ASSEMBLY RESIGNS

BK090804 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] Mrs Anwara Taimur has resigned from the leadership of the Congress-I legislature party in the Assam Assembly. The election of the new leader is expected to take place tomorrow.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN -- Spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry J.N. Dixit relinquished his charge on 11 January after 2 and 1/2 years. Dixit has been appointed ambassador to Afghanistan. Mani Shankar Iyer will take over tomorrow as the official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 82 BK]

FRG LOAN -- India will get a loan of about 200 million rupees from the Federal Republic of Germany for acquiring a drilling vessel for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC]. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi today. The loan has been provided to ONGC at a concessional rate of interest with a repayment period of 12 years. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Jan 82 BK]

SHAHI ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA, AFGHAN ISSUE

BK121119 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] The Majlis-i-Shoora [Advisory Council] in Islamabad today began debate on the external situation with a comprehensive presentation by Foreign Minister Agha Shahi of the country's foreign policy.

He dealt with Indo-Pakistan relations, the Afghanistan problem, Middle East and Pakistan's relations with its neighbors and the superpowers. Agha Shahi said consistent with its policy of good neighborliness with all countries of the region and present government has endeavored to establish and promote friendly and tension-free relations with India. He said he would be visiting New Delhi toward the end of this month for initial discussions on a nonaggression pact. We shall approach these negotiations in a spirit of sincerity and good faith. He said two basic objectives of Pakistan's proposal were that the two countries would exchange mutual guarantees of nonaggression and non-use of force and secondly they should reaffirm their firm commitment to resolve disputes and differences, present or future, exclusively through peaceful means.

Agha Shahi said there was certainly no justification for any apprehension and suspicion on the part of India which, being the largest country in our region, and [as heard] need not fear a threat to its security from Pakistan. The whole world was aware, as were the people of India, that Pakistan faced a difficult situation and far from harboring any aggressive designs against any of its neighbors was desperately trying to strengthen its defense in the face of accumulating danger. Acquisition by India of large quantities of the most sophisticated weapons from the Soviet Union as well as from Western countries will ensure India's continued military preponderance in the region.

Referring to the question of Jammu and Kashmir, Agha Shahi said Pakistan remains firmly committed to the Simla Agreement and believes that there was nothing in that agreement to derogate from the right and privileges of either of the two parties under the UN Charter. When we refer to Kashmir in international forums, while the dispute has not been addressed in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Simla Agreement, it should not be misinterpreted or misconstrued in India as a bid to deviate from that accord. If only this basic problem could be solved the situation in the region could be entirely transformed.

The foreign minister also explained at length the situation with regard to the Afghanistan issue and Pakistan's principled stand for a peaceful political solution of the issue. Consistent with the growing support by the world community, Pakistan has taken further initiative and informed the UN secretary general of its readiness to enter into negotiation under his auspices, without prejudice to the position of nonrecognition of the Karmal regime.

Referring to massive influx of refugees, whose number has now risen to 2.5 million, the foreign minister declared that negotiations for their return must inevitable lead to the consideration of the question of withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan within an agreed timeframe.

Agha Shahi said they looked forward to the resumption of shuttle diplomacy by the UN secretary general's personal representative to visit Islamabad, Kabul and Tehran.

Further Details

BK121619 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Excerpts] The Advisory Council in Islamabad today began debate on the external situation with a comprehensive presentation by Foreign Minister Agha Shahi of the country's foreign policy.

Agha Shahi told the Advisory Council that despite the Afghanistan situation, economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Pakistan was not only maintained but increased.

The foreign minister referred to the new U.S.-Pakistan relations established in the context of the situation in Southwest Asia under which Pakistan has assumed greater strategic importance and significance for the security and stability of the Gulf region. The Reagan administration, keeping this situation in view, adopted more practical steps and offered economic aid and military sales to Pakistan in order to assist stabilizing its economy and security. Amidst applause by the federal councillors, the foreign minister strongly refuted allegations by interested quarters that the United States is demanding facilities to set up military bases in Pakistan in exchange for aid and that this demand has been accepted. He said that such allegations are clearly baseless.

Agha Shahi announced that Pakistan, first and last, is an Islamic and nonaligned country and the recent agreement with the United States on military purchases and economic aid will not affect Pakistan's policies. Adherence to the Islamic cause will continue to remain a basic characteristic of Pakistan whether in relation to Iran, the Middle East and/or any other country.

Referring to Pakistan's relations with China, he said that friendship with China is a permanent feature of our foreign policy because we adhere to principles and our interests are identical.

On the Middle East he said that main objective of our policy is to establish the closest relationship with the Islamic countries of the region and extend full support to them.

HAQ GIVES MORE DETAILS ON CENSORSHIP MOVE

BK111047 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Text] Talking to newsmen [after the inauguration of the Federal Advisory Council] informally, the president said the next session of the Majlis-i-Shoora will be held next month and it is expected that it will meet regularly every month.

Asked to elaborate the lifting of precensorship on newspapers, he said there is ban on reporting of political activities in the country and censorship on them continues. However, all activities which do not clash with the four principles enunciated by him in his speech could be freely reported. Reporting of speeches made on the floor of the house by the members will be governed by the same principles.

Asked when the next installment of the members of the council will be announced, the president said probably after the current session.

PRC BORDER TRADE DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS

BK091527 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] The visiting Chinese border trade delegation held a meeting with the commissioner of northern areas in Gilgit this morning. They discussed measures to further promote the bilateral border trade.

BRIEFS

BRITISH AID -- The British Government has agreed to provide aid worth 80 million rupees for a power generation program in Baluchistan. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Jan 82 BK]

EXPORTS TO FRANCE -- Pakistan's exports to France increased by 46 percent last year as compared to the preceding year. This was stated by French Ambassador to Pakistan Paul Henri while releasing a France-Pakistan trade guide. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 8 Jan 82 BK]

AFP CITES VELAYATI ON DEVELOPING FOREIGN TIES

NC122024 Paris AFP in English 1921 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 12 Jan (AFP) -- Iran hopes to develop friendly ties with countries throughout the world, except with its "sworn enemy" the United States, the new Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The Islamic Republic aimed to improve relations with the Soviet Union, Gulf states and Western European nations, he said, on condition that they abstain from committing "unfriendly acts" against Iran.

Mr Velayati, appointed foreign minister on December 15 after Hoseyn Musavi became premier, rejected any possibility of "normalization" of ties with the United States, which he said "has not ceased its plotting for a moment."

Accusing Washington of supporting Kurdish rebels as well as Marxists and other leftist opponents of the Iranian Government, he said "we do not want to establish relations with such a sworn enemy of the Islamic revolution."

But he said that Iran could strengthen its ties with the Soviet Union in the future, depending on "the attitudes of the USSR."

Iran "set no limit on the development of future economic, industrial and other ties" with the Soviet Union, he said, on condition they "exclude domination".

Referring to Soviet arms shipments to Iraq, Mr Velayati said that although it was up to Moscow "to define its interests", Tehran was keeping a close watch on Soviet actions deemed "unfriendly". Afghanistan, he said, was a "repetition of the Vietnam scenario".

Mr Velayati stressed that non-intervention was a fundamental "principle" of Iranian foreign policy.

"Exporting the revolution was a cultural and ideological question" that had nothing to do with "exporting cannons, tanks or soldiers", he said.

Underlining Iran's hope to develop overseas ties, the foreign minister listed the countries already termed "close friends" as Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, Mauritania, and "most Islamic and non-aligned countries".

"We also maintain good relations with our Turk and Pakistani neighbours, and with the Persian Gulf states, despite artificial tensions", he said.

Iran was recently charged with involvement in a December 13 plot to overthrow the Government of Bahrain. But Mr Velayati strongly denied the charges, which he said stemmed from an effort by the "toppling" Iraqi regime to "divert" Iran's attention from their nearly 16-month-old war.

Referring to the Iranian charge d'affaires' expulsion from North Yemen on December 29 (for allegedly distributing "anti-Yemen tracts"), Mr Velayati said "imperialist propaganda" had been at work again as the diplomat had "in no way counteracted diplomatic rules".

The tracts, Mr Velayati said, were in fact a written denial that Iran had executed Iraqi soldiers and also denied the existence of relations between Iran and Israel, "our number one enemy". The Government of North Yemen had previously refused to publish the Iranian declaration, he said.

Comparing Iran, occupied by enemy Iraqi troops, to France during the Nazi occupation in World War II, the foreign minister said: "You (France) should at least back our refusal for a cease-fire agreement".

On inter-Arab relations, Mr Velayati said it was "natural" that the Arab world strengthen its ties, but added that Saudi Prince Fahd's Mideast peace plan was definitely "dead." It was "improbable" that "progressive nations" would ever adopt the plan, he said.

Iran hoped to build ties with Western nations like France or West Germany, where the culture was "too rooted to follow the U.S. path", but on condition that independence from the U.S. was maintained, notably within the north Atlantic alliance.

Mr Velayati denied rumours of an Iranian ban on French imports following reports that French instructors were training Iraqi pilots.

VELAYATI MEETS WITH, ADDRESSES DIPLOMATIC CORPS

LD122024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, ambassadors, charges d'affaires and representatives of foreign diplomatic missions to the Islamic Republic of Iran met Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this afternoon. During this meeting, held for the purpose of introductions the minister of foreign affairs, in a speech expounding the lofty goals of the Islamic revolution and the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said:

Nonsubservience to the Eastern and Western superpowers and waging struggle against any form of international hegemony, whether political, economic, or social and cultural domination, constitute the foreign policy infrastructure of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the foreign policy emanating therefrom does not mean bending over, ossification or isolationism. It is rather a dynamic and highly mobile motto which, apart from safeguarding the independence of our Islamic country, makes us dutybound to take steps to inform the other oppressed and dominated nations. We officially proclaim that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran respects the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries and we never contemplate exporting revolution in a sense which is contrary to the said principle.

He added: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the hypocritical diplomacy which is ruling the world and believes that such political methods based on chicanery and hypocrisy concocted by the satanical powers and their puppets for the purpose of deceiving men and imposing the overlordship of the same powers on the destiny of the oppressed nations of the world should give way to a sincere diplomacy based on safeguarding human honor and dignity.

In implementing the policy of "Neither Eastern nor Western" on the basis of another motto which in turn has come forth since the beginning of the revolution -- "Independence, Liberty and the Islamic Republic" -- we will devote our entire efforts and energies toward safeguarding our country's independence and not only will not allow new acts of subservience to take place with regard to axes and the superpowers but rather we will strive toward abolishing and wiping out instances of subservience to the world-devouring United States created by the defunct Pahlavi regime.

Continuing his speech the minister of foreign affairs, referring to the speech by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the effect that the United States is our real enemy, said: We will ruthlessly and ceaselessly continue our struggle against the aggressive, colonialist policies of the United States and its bastard child, the usurping Israel. Attempts by certain quarters will not deter us from our original position, which is enmity toward the mother of corruption in this century, the United States; and we believe that in order to destroy the regime occupying Jerusalem and to liberate occupied Palestine it is essential that all Islamic nations and governments unite and, with the succor of all the world's meek, extirpate that germ of corruption.

Therefore, the Islamic countries, instead of following the United States, which has itself created this stigma of shame on Islamic societies in the Middle East, and putting up with such abject conditions as the colonialist Camp David plan, should step toward the unity of their forces for the purpose of waging consistent struggle for the destruction of Israel.

Continuing his speech and condemning the Soviet Army for its occupation of Afghanistan, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said: We confirm the need for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and believe that the destiny of the Muslim people of that country should be determined by themselves under the protection of Islamic teachings.

He added: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the arms drive engaged by the superpowers in Europe and believes that the United States and the USSR, by curtailing the arms drive, should allow the European peoples to employ the stupendous sums which are being used in carrying out this ruinous arms drive to further their own economic strength and progress.

While enumerating the plots hatched by U.S. imperialism against Iran's Islamic revolution, the minister of foreign affairs said: Through the aggressive Iraqi regime, the United States has committed aggression against the soil of our Islamic homeland with the aim of bringing the Islamic revolution to its knees. With U.S. backing the Iraqi regime has imposed this unwanted war on Iran and our people have no option except to defend their soil until they drive out the last Saddamist soldier from Iran.

Mr Velayati said: It is painful to us to mention the fact that the Zionist regime has made the utmost of this war in annexing the Golan Heights to the soil of occupied Palestine. The manner in which the war is being continued by the Saddam regime, which in itself is indicative of the utter weakness and cowardice of that country's mercenary army, also speaks of the inhuman nature of that regime. Iraqi fighter aircraft, contrary to all international laws and regulations, have often bombed and continued to bomb our populated regions and defenseless cities. The combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite the great many opportunities which they have to avenge these inhuman Iraqi deeds, in carrying out the behests of Islam -- which we believe are the best laws to protect human rights -- have never taken and shall never take such action.

Concluding his speech addressed to the ambassadors, charges d'affaires and representatives of diplomatic missions in Iran, the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: Iran's Islamic revolution carries a message of peace, friendship, liberty and moral goodness for all the meek nations of the world and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is desirous of expanding its relations and ties with all noncolonialist nations and governments and of respecting good neighborliness with the neighboring countries; here it gives priority to Islamic and nonaligned countries.

After the speech by Mr Velayati, Vinogradov, the Soviet ambassador to Tehran, read a speech as the doyen of the diplomatic corps. To begin with, while congratulating our country's minister of foreign affairs, he said: Peace is one of the most essential issues of the world and we should strive so that the people may live under justice. In our opinion, war cannot be an instrument for attaining peace and it is in the interest of the countries to live in peace.

In another part of his speech he said: We understand the problems of the Islamic Republic of Iran and we, the representatives of various countries in your country, not only understand your position but sympathize with your difficulties.

In conclusion, he wished our foreign minister and the people of our country success.

Then the ambassadors, charges d'affaires and diplomatic representatives to the Islamic Republic of Iran were introduced to Mr Velayati.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

LD121150 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 12 Jan (IRNA) -- Ahmad Tavakkoli, government's spokesman, today announced at a press conference that Iran was not only warring with Iraq but rather with the U.S. which aimed at hindering the Islamic revolution. Asked about the 30-million-dollars aid paid by six Arab states to Iraq, Tavakkoli, quoting the Syrian foreign minister, said that if such an aid had been granted to Syria, "there would not have existed today a country called Israel". Even if all the world assisted Iraq, Tavakkoli stressed, they could not change Iran's legitimate stance.

Commenting on the unity week, the government's spokesman said that Iran supported the oppressed people of the world and the unity week was an opportunity to bring Muslims of the world closer. He hoped that by achieving a greater unity conspiracies would be overcome and that only this could revive Muslims.

On the situation in Sudan, Tavakkoli said that it was a warning to all countries which sought to approach the U.S. and that similar fates awaited them. On behalf of the Iranian peoples, Tavakkoli expressed the hope that Sudanese would achieve their objectives.

Further Details

LD121306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] Mr Ahmad Tavakkoli, government spokesman and minister of labor and social affairs, took part in a news conference this morning. He answered questions by domestic and foreign correspondents on details of the budget, war developments and political affairs of the country. During this conference, commenting on the budget that was approved by the Economic Council on 11 January, Mr Tavakkoli said: We were able to submit the budget in a timely manner, which is very important and will enable us to implement programs on schedule throughout the year. The executive organs of the country will be able to carry out development plans and thus resume the country's economic discipline. He added: On the other hand, for next year's budget we have tried to change the ratio of funds in the current budget and the development budget in favor of the development budget.

The current budget expenditures for the year beginning on 21 March is 1.8 trillion rials although, as you are aware, several new organizations and foundations have been added to the country's administrative budget. We have been able to economize and allocate a smaller budget, compared with the same figure for the previous year, to the government's administrative expenses. The development budget is 780 billion rials and allocating larger part of the budget to development projects is realistic. The budget allocation for war expenses has been increased to 400 billion rials. The policy followed in drafting this budget has been the welfare of the oppressed people. Industries and agriculture have received particular consideration in drafting the budget and the government has even included a sum to subsidize small industries. The Economic Council has allocated 30 billion rials to assist the growth of small industries.

The government spokesman added: In order to change the budget in a way that gives more attention to the oppressed masses, the reconstruction crusade budget has been increased. I am happy to say that we will only have a 10 to 12 percent shortage in this year's budget, but this [words indistinct] is not considerable since deficits of up to 20 percent are considered acceptable.

Answering a question on rumors that soldiers from six countries have come to help Saddam's Ba'thist army and on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's view on this, Mr Tavakkoli said: First of all I should say that this war is fought against America and not Saddam. America intends to stop the growth of the Islamic revolution. Even if instead of six countries [word indistinct] countries were to send their soldiers to help Saddam, we would not alter our stance in the slightest. We will continue the war to the best of our abilities and by relying on God we will be victorious in the end.

On the nationalization of foreign trade, the government spokesman said: This bill has been submitted to the Majlis and, after its approval in the first reading, it will be submitted for a second reading. The Majlis will approve whatever is in the interest of the country. On recent attempts to (?neutralize) Fahd's plan, Mr Tavakkoli said: As the imam has said, the Palestinian issue can only be solved by [words indistinct] relying on faith, and they would not benefit from such tricks.

On the effects of unity week for the country's foreign policy, the government spokesman said: This program has succeeded in drawing the Muslims closer together. As it was announced before, the enemy fears our unity which has been strengthened by this initiative. On the State Inspectorate General and this organizations activities, he said: According to the law, the Inspectorate General should report to executive departments. It is up to the executive departments to act on these reports. The Inspectorate General acts like an open eye to see what is going on; it should observe and not act.

The problem of housing was brought up at the press conference and the government spokesman said: The bill concerning tenants and landlords was ratified by the Majlis by the imam's (?decree on judgment). The Council of Guardians raised an objection to the bill because of its contradiction with the Constitution, saying that the legislative branch cannot stop the judicial branch from doing its job. Solutions are being worked out to eradicate the problem.

At the end of the news conference, on the plan to eliminate the bank's interest and tax system, the government spokesman said: A plan has been prepared in this connection and will be submitted to the Majlis. One of the 10 groups in charge of preparing the plan for the country's economic infrastructure is studying the tax system and as soon as this plan is ready it will be announced.

HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN TEHRAN

LD121156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] According to IRNA, a Hungarian economic delegation comprising 12 banking, oil and commercial officials arrived in Tehran today. Dr Tibor Melega, deputy director of the Interstate Main Departments of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Trade, is leading the delegation.

Upon arriving in Tehran, in an exclusive interview with an IRNA correspondent, Dr Melega said: Considering the aims of the Islamic revolution and the foreign relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hungary is in favor of starting contacts with Iranian officials. We favor the beginning of contacts so that more (?efforts) can be made in the areas of bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of agriculture, hygiene and transportation.

The deputy minister for foreign trade of the Iranian Commerce Ministry said: At present the Islamic Republic of Iran's volume of imports from Hungary is one percent of our total import volume. The Islamic Republic of Iran, considering its policy on exporting nonpetroleum products, intends to increase the sale of such goods to Hungary. He also said: The possibilities for both countries in the fields of agriculture, power transmission, chemicals, and railroads will be discussed with the Hungarian delegation.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 758

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[Communique 758 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Hold firm to the rope of God and do not be separated.

The brave and self-sacrificing fighters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, their hearts full of the light of God and the love of Mohammad, from the heights of positions of victory, express their felicitations and greetings on the anniversary of the blessed birth of the seal of the prophet, Mohammad ibn 'Abdullah, may God's greetings and blessings be upon him, and the blissful birthday of his Holiness Imam-e Sadeq [the eighth imam] to the blessed presence of the lord of the age, his holiness mahdi, may God hasten his glad advent, and his vice regent, Iman Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and commander in chief of the armed forces and the founder of the Islamic Republic, and the noble and faithful Iranian nation.

God willing, unity week, which is the week of greater unity between the Muslims, may be blessed for all. In order to celebrate unity week, the brave fighters of the ground forces, the brothers from the Guards Corps and other popular forces, at dawn yesterday, 11 January, in a series of offensives, succeeded in killing about 200 of the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist forces in the(Shazeliyyeh) region and destroying a considerable number of tanks and personnel carriers of the forces of the infidel Saddam.

Also, according to a report from the air force, at 1630 yesterday, as a result of the fire of the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one Iraqi plane was downed and destroyed west of Dezful.

Fighting and exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued sporadically on other fronts west of Dezful, Ahvaz, Abadan and Khuninshahr. The powerful artillery of the ground forces brought some enemy installations and positions in Al-Faw under their fire and inflicted some losses.

Yesterday fighting and exchanges of artillery fire and other heavy weapons continued on most of the fronts in the west of the country, and on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts the fighting was more intense than on other fronts in the west of the country. On the meymak, Salehabad and Shur-e Shirin fronts the heavy-artillery fire of the ground forces and the mortar fire of the fighters of the gendarmerie on enemy positions killed a large number of Iraqis and their movements and activities were also stopped. On the Sumar fronts, in addition to destroying a number of tank and artillery positions of the forces of Saddam, one of their antiaircraft guns was also destroyed.

On the Gilan-e Gharb fronts, fighting continued between our forces and the aggressive forces of Saddam. Yesterday some residential areas and installations in Abadan came under the long-range artillery fire and air bombardment of Saddam's mercenaries and this caused some damage.

In the battles of 10 January, six of the fighters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred. Five of them were personnel of the Ground Forces and one of them was a member of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

BRIEFS

AMNESTY, REDUCED PRISON SENTENCES -- The Supreme Judicial Council has released the names of 47 prisoners convicted by the Islamic military courts who have received amnesty or who have had their sentences reduced by his great eminence the imam in honor of the birthday of the noble prophet. Eighty-six prisoners convicted by the revolution courts and 74 ordinary prisoners have also received amnesty or had their sentences reduced. [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jan 82 LD]